



County of San Diego

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Is A Permit Required For Your Subsurface Work?

Are you proposing to make a test or exploratory hole in the ground to determine underground geological or hydrogeological conditions? This includes subsurface investigations for contamination and geotechnical information¹.

Will your test or exploratory hole (boring) exceed more than twenty feet in depth?

Yes Then you need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.

No Then go to the next question.

Will your boring encounter groundwater?

Yes Then you need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.

No Then go to the next question.

Will you be permanently installing a casing or a monitoring device? Will this device remain in the subsurface for more than twenty-four hours, (regardless of depth)?

Yes Then you need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.

No Then you don't need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.

If you answered yes to any of the above four questions, then answer the next question to determine what kind of permit you need.

Will this boring be temporary (remain open for less than twenty-four hours)?

Yes, less than 24 hours

No, it will be open more than 24 hours

Then a permit for a boring is required.²

Then a permit for a monitoring well is required. Any boring open for more than twenty-four hours requires a monitoring well permit regardless of depth³.

In the Field-----Unexpected Conditions

If you unexpectedly encounter groundwater, make a field decision to install a well casing or monitoring device, or leave the hole open more than 24 hours, **you must immediately** call the Monitoring Well Desk at **858-505-6688** to notify us and then submit an application for a permit.

¹ This does not include trenching. A boring is a test or exploratory hole and is an excavation used for determining the nature of underground geological or hydrological conditions, whether by seismic investigation, direct observation or any other means. Contact the Monitoring Well Program (MWP) if additional clarification is needed.

² In some cases, depending on past, present and proposed future use of the local area where the boring is proposed, a waiver for a permit may be granted for geotechnical investigations. Permits are required on sites where hazardous materials/wastes were stored, are now stored, proposed to be stored; or where soil and groundwater contamination is known or suspected. The Department of Environmental Health Site Assessment and Mitigation Program (SAM) must make this determination for you. You must contact the Monitoring Well Desk and submit documentation to determine if a waiver may be granted.

³ Note that under County Well Ordinances (Section 67.402), a test or exploratory hole is included in the definition of a well. A well in San Diego County is any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of: extracting water, injecting water, providing cathodic protection or electrical grounding, making tests or observation of underground conditions, or any other similar purpose.